

Indiana Department of Correction Helps Catch One of America's 10 Most Wanted

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J. David Donahue,
Commissioner

Indianapolis, Indiana – (October 19, 2006) – Commissioner J. David Donahue recently deployed two K-9 Units, Sergeant Steven Jon Sexton of Wabash Valley Correctional Facility and Correctional Casework Manager Michael Wood of Putnamville Correctional Facility to work with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in Chillicothe, Ohio to help apprehend one of America's 10 Most Wanted felons, John Parsons.

The Department was called by the Ohio State Police Commander Randy Sanders who was managing the task force responsible for searching for Parson, who escaped from lawful detention. Commander Sanders notified the Department that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had a Mobile Command Center set up in Chillicothe, along with several tracking teams, to help with this case.

John W. Parsons was wanted for escaping from the Ross County Jail in Ohio on July 29, 2006. Parsons was being held without bond, pending trial for several indictments, including aggravated murder for the slaying of a Chillicothe police officer.

"The Department is honored to be called upon for its expertise and training in helping track down dangerous fugitives like this," said J. David Donahue, Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Correction. "State lines should not be a barrier to public safety, and we stand by ready to help a neighboring state in a time of need. This cooperative assistance does not burden Indiana taxpayers, as the cost of helping in this case will be reimbursed by the federal government."

The first two K-9 handlers arrived in Chillicothe on October 10, 2006, as the search continued for John Parson, followed by the second team of handlers which joined the search on October 16.

“We were asked to assist because prisons often have bloodhounds for tracking escaped prisoners and they were calling surrounding states asking for bloodhounds,” said Edward Motley, Deputy Commissioner of Operations.

“Our bloodhounds and handlers are called for assistance quite often by Indiana Law Enforcement Agencies to assist in tracking lost hunters or children in the Hoosier National Forest and to search for felons who have escaped from their custody. Promoting public safety is our job, every day, all day,” added Donahue.

[Click here to read more about Top Ten Most Wanted Fugitives](#)

About The Department of Correction

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department’s home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department’s Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.

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